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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [VE](#)
SUBJECT: FROM BOLIVIA, CHAVEZ REPEATS ACCUSATIONS OF USG
INVOLVEMENT IN HONDURAS COUP

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR DARNALL STEUART, FOR REASON 1
.4(D)

¶1. (C) Summary: President Chavez, while giving a speech July 16 in La Paz celebrating Bolivia's bicentennial, repeated accusations that the USG -- and the State Department and CIA specifically -- were behind the coup in Honduras. In a message he has been pushing for weeks, Chavez contended that President Obama may not have been aware of what his government was up to. He also sought to drag Bolivia into the conflict by hinting that the USG might provoke a similar coup in La Paz in order to impose a Micheletti-like interim government -- apparently seeking to recast the Honduran conflict as a greater battle between "imperialist" forces and the Latin American left. End Summary.

"THE EMPIRE IS THE EMPIRE"

¶2. (SBU) Chavez announced July 16 during a bicentennial celebration in Bolivia that the "U.S. State Department caused the coup, I don't have the least doubt, those military in Honduras would not have taken a step without the endorsement of the military from the U.S. base in Honduras and without the endorsement of the Department of State." He commented that "the empire is the empire, the CIA is the CIA, and the State Department has all of its mechanisms, you can't doubt it. In all of the coup d'etats that have taken place in the last 200 years in this continent, the United States has had its hand in (all of them)." He asserted that President Obama was not informed regarding the alleged coup involvement but contended that "Obama is the one who has to respond, not me."

¶3. (SBU) Chavez reiterated that ousted President Zelaya must return and that interim Honduran President Roberto Micheletti is condemned to the "garbage dump of history." Chavez noted, however, that "the hour of the gorillas" is over and that now is the "hour of the people." He described the "gorillas" as demonstrating what a true dictatorship is -- "kidnappings, killings, no freedom of press." He added that "that is the kind of democracy that they want to impose here in Bolivia, in Venezuela, never will they succeed in imposing those disguised dictatorships of democracy." Chavez said "we are here in the battle fighting for our independence, and now it is true that nothing and no-one will interrupt the path to our independence. The more that goriletti threatens us, the more that the empire threatens us, the more that the oligarchs exist, they cannot stop the charge of this new history."

¶4. (C) Comment: Chavez has been repeating his outlandish assertions of USG involvement in the Honduras coup since it began and now is trying to include Bolivia in the mix, apparently an attempt to recast the Honduran issue as a

larger conflict between the "evil empire" and his fellow left-wing revolutionaries in the region. Although he is playing to his base with these statements, he also appears to genuinely believe that the reversal of the "revolution" in one Bolivarian state threatens them all.

CAULFIELD